



Conseil International du Sport Militaire

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Tanja Linton

The U.S. women's team gathers for a huddle during their close match with the Netherlands.

Competition begins with strong showings

By Tanja Linton

The first day of competition in the 27th *Conseil International du Sport Militaire* Volleyball Championships got underway Sunday.

Men's teams from Qatar and India made a strong showing in their CISM volleyball debuts despite losses. Local Dutch and Canadian fans and a large contingent from the Sierra Vista Korean community came out to cheer on teams from the Netherlands, Canada and Korea. The

Korean men's team rewarded their singing fans with a snappy military salute at the end of their victory over India. Both Chinese teams, particularly the women's team which boasts a three-time Olympian, breezed through their matches in three straight sets.

Here are the results of Sunday's competition:

Men

Germany def. Qatar 21-25, 25-16, 25-23, 25-16
Korea def. India 25-11, 25-19, 25-20

China def. United States 25-20, 25-13, 25-18

Women

Netherlands def. United States 25-20, 15-25, 22-25, 25-23, 26-24
China def. Canada 25-4, 25-8, 25-12

Competition continues today at Barnes Field House here. Women play in the morning: China vs. Netherlands at 8 a.m. and Canada vs. United States at 10:30 a.m. Men play in the afternoon: India vs. Cy-

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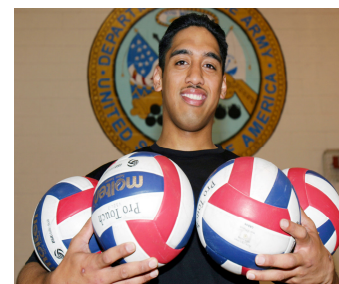


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Thom Williams

Buena grad competes in CISM

By Thom Williams

A Soldier who played volleyball for Buena High School has been selected for the Men's U.S. Armed Forces team that will represent the United States at the 27th *Conseil International du Sport Militaire* World Military Volleyball Championship June 8-19 at Fort Huachuca.

Poasa Masaniai Jr., 21, nicknamed P.J., was one of six Soldiers from the All-Army team selected for the elite U.S. CISM

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Tanja Linton

Soomin Jung, 13, of Sierra Vista, is one of many local fans that came out to cheer on the Korean team.

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









prus at 2 p.m.; China vs. Netherlands at 4:30 p.m. and Germany vs. Canada at 7 p.m.

The public is encouraged to come out and support these world-class athletes. Admission to all

matches is free.

Fort Huachuca is an Armed Forces sports center of excellence. The installation hosted CISM Boxing in 2004. CISM's motto is "Friendship through Sport."

June 12 Competition Schedule

0800		CHINA(W)	L4-L2		NETHERLANDS (W)
1030		CANADA (W)	L3-L1		USA (W)
1400		INDIA	B2-B3		CYPRUS
1630		CHINA	C2-C3		NETHERLANDS
1900		GERMANY	A2-A3		CANADA

History of CISM Volleyball

The First World Military Volleyball Championship was held in Tehran in 1961. Until 1980, the Greek team were regular number one favourites and they did bag countless world titles. During the same period, Near and Middle East countries were also very much present. The early '80s were marked by the advent of China: between 1980 and 1985, the Chinese team confined all other nations to playing second fiddle. China's thorough domination was shaken by Turkey in Colorado Springs, USA, in 1986. As for the '90s, they consisted of a series of final confrontations between Italy and Greece.

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squad by a panel of service representatives who watched the Armed Forces Volleyball tournament.

After being presented a gold medal for being a member of the Men's Army Volleyball team that won the Armed Forces Volleyball tournament, Masaniai stood on the gym floor at Barnes Field House listening to the names of the players who would move on to the next level of competition.

"It was a great relief to actually hear my name announced to the All-Armed Forces and to be here for the CISM. I was very excited," he said.

During the Armed Forces tournament, family and friends of the 6-foot, 2-inch Masaniai filled the stands at Barnes Field House.

Masaniai said that he's been playing volleyball for most of his life.

He was a starter as a freshman on the Buena High School Colts volleyball team in 1999.

In 2003, during his senior year, Masaniai was named the Class 5A Southern Region's Volleyball Player of the Year. He played outside hitter, middle blocker and setter during his stint playing for the Colts.

The U.S. Men's and Women's CISM Volleyball teams began practice for the international competition on May 22.

Masaniai says the



Thom Williams

Men's CISM team is "gelling," but there is an undercurrent of intense competition.

"There are six positions up for grabs, and I'm hoping that I can get one," Masaniai said.

He went on to say that he is going to work hard and is looking forward to a good competition in the fight for starting positions.

When he's not playing volleyball, Masaniai holds the Military Occupational Specialty 26D, telecommunications operator-maintainer, the same MOS that his father, Poasa Masaniai Sr., a retired Soldier, held when he was on active-duty.

Masaniai, whose parents are of Samoan descent, said his father was a three-sport, All-Army athlete competing in volleyball, racquetball and softball.

Masaniai is currently stationed in the Republic of Korea at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul.